

To / (G. M.) Stearns, Esq.  
Boston,  
Mass.

Aug. 15. 1838.

COMMENTS ON  
1792 COINAGE

Mint of the United States.  
Aug. 15th, 1838.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Sparks's letter of the 19th of June, enclosing <sup>ing</sup> your inquiry respecting the coinage at this Mint, was duly received, and was immediately put into the hands of one of our officers to procure the information asked; when, unfortunately, in the press of business at that time, it was dismissed from my mind, and I have <sup>therefore</sup> now to apologize for a delay in attending to this correspondence, which I sincerely regret.

In reply to your first queries, I have to state that the first coinage at the Mint was made in 1792, and consisted of about 1500 half-dimes; — no other coins having been struck in that year. In 1793 there was no coinage except of cents and half-cents, — which were also coined in '94 and '95. — In 1794, in addition to the copper coinage, there were struck 5300 half dollars and 1758 dollars. These dollars are now very scarce; — we have but one specimen, and that is worn. —

In 1795, Dollars, <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> Half-dollars, and <sup>2<sup>d</sup></sup> Half-dollars were coined; and <sup>in this year</sup> the first gold coinage was made, consisting of 2795 eagles, and 8717 half-eagles.

Cents were certainly coined with the date 1823, for I have now a specimen before me; but no delivery of cents was made, in that year, from the Comptroller to the Treasurer, and hence the omission in our table. The quarter dollar of 1824 must, I presume, be explained in the same way, but we have no specimen of this coinage in our collection.

Our Assistant Assayer, Mr. Du Bois, has undertaken to make, as far as practicable, the collection of gold coins which you anticipate, and has already laid aside, the following.

Eagles of 1797, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1803, 1804

Half eagles of 1795, 1800, and from 1802 to 1813, both included.

As to the ~~other coins~~ silver and copper coins, <sup>the</sup> opportunity of making collections is not presented at the Mint, as no such coins are ever <sup>received</sup> brought here.

on deposits. If, however, any of  
the coins you ask should come into  
our hands, you shall not be forgotten.

It will give me great pleasure  
to aid you in your interesting design,  
and whenever you think it may be in  
my power to do so, I pray you  
to call on me freely.

P. M. F.

To /  
W. G. Stearns, Esq.,  
Boston.

Mint of the United States  
Philadelphia, Pa.

August 15, 1838

W. G. Stearns, Esq.  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Sparks's letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> for June, enclosing your inquiries respecting the coins at this Mint, was duly received, and was immediately put into the hands of one of our officers to procure the information asked; when, unfortunately, in the press of business at that time, it was dismissed from my mind, and I have therefore now to apologize for a delay in attending to this correspondence, which I sincerely regret.

In reply to your questions, I have to state that the first coinage at this Mint was made in 1792, and consisted of about 1,500 half-dimes; no other coins having been struck in that year. In 1793 there was no coinage except of cents and half-cents, which were also coined in '94 and '95. In 1794, in addition to the copper coinage there were struck 5,300 half-dollars and 1,758 dollars. These dollars are now very scarce – we have but one specimen, and that is worn. In 1795, dollars, half-dollars and half-dimes were coined; and in that year the first gold coinage was made, consisting of 2,795 eagles, and 8,707 half-eagles.

Cents were certainly coined with the date 1823, for I have now a specimen before me; but no delivery of cents was made in that year, from the Coiner to the Treasurer, and hence the omission in our table. The quarter-dollar of 1824 must, I presume, be explained in the same way, but we have no specimen of this coinage in our collection.

Our Assistant Assayer, Mr. DuBois, has undertaken to make, as far as practicable, the collection of gold coins which you ask for and has already laid aside for you the following, viz.: Eagles of 1797, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1803, 1804; half-eagles of 1795, 1800, and from 1802 to 1813, both included.

As to the silver and copper coins, the opportunity of making collections is not permitted at the Mint, as no such coins are ever received here on deposit. If, however, any of the coins you ask should come into our hands, you shall not be forgotten.

It will give me great pleasures to aid you in your interesting designs and whenever you think it may be in my power to do so, I pray you to call on me freely.

R.M.P.  
[R. M. Patterson, Diector]